

# LIVE STOCK

## SELECTING BREEDING STOCK

Stock Improvement is Closely Related to Heredity Control Which Insures Best Matings.

(Prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture.)  
Raising the standard of farm animals and poultry and bringing out certain desirable characteristics by selective breeding is receiving more attention as methods of farming for profit become intensified.

The breeding of domestic animals dates back to remote antiquity, when the most advanced races of the old world were still on the border line between savagery and barbarism. It is comparatively only a few years since the principles of breeding have been more than a collection of unrelated traditional beliefs.

The same superstitions on which the shepherds of Asia based their practices at least 30 centuries ago are still widely current, while the one sound principle known to the ancients—selection of the best for breeding stock—is still largely neglected.

The principles of successful animal breeding, as they have been learned by practical experience in the United States and other older countries, and by careful scientific study along definite lines, are outlined in Department Bulletin 905, recently issued by the United States Department of Agriculture.

This bulletin goes into the first principles of reproduction and follows the means by which certain characteristics of one or the other parent are transmitted to the offspring, the methods of selection best suited to intensify the desirable characteristics and weed out the undesirable, the characteristics which can with certainty be expected to continue from one generation to another, those which are uncertain, those which will blend, and those which cannot be inherited.

Aside from mere increase in numbers the purposes which the breeder is likely to have in mind fall under two more or less distinct heads, namely, production of a uniform product, and improvement. A uniform product depends on such control over the heredity of the stock that matings can be made with the assurance that the offspring will be of a certain definite type for which there is a



Calves Selected for Breeding Purposes.

demand. Improvement is, of course, closely related to control over heredity, but the methods which give the greatest control are not necessarily those which lead to the most rapid improvement.

In a broad sense the whole subject of practical breeding comes under the head of selection. The most obvious basis for such selection is the performance of the animals themselves. Unfortunately, the merit of most kinds of live stock cannot be measured directly. The study of conformation as an index of useful qualities has accordingly held a high place as a basis for selection of breeding stock. Live stock judging has this for its purpose. An animal of good breeding is a better one to breed than one of equal individual merit but of mixed or common breeding. Pedigree, though often misused, is a valuable aid to selection, apart from following a general policy of mating. The soundest basis of all for selection of breeding stock is the record of past performance as a breeder, provided the record is sufficiently extensive to give a fair test.

## DISPLACING INFERIOR SIRE

Many Farmers Tell Department of Agriculture of Compliance With Better-Sires Plan.

"I disposed of a grade bull last month."  
"I sold a high-grade yearling bull."  
"Disposed of a scrub bull because we expect to breed to a purebred."  
"I castrated an inferior male hog and put in a purebred."  
"I will have to buy hogs and they will be purebred."

These comments were received in one day recently by the United States Department of Agriculture from persons enrolled in the better sires—better stock movement. In addition, many others stated that, although they did not own purebred sires, their female stock was bred to such animals, thus complying with the essential requirements of the better-sires campaign.

Mistaken in His Ideas.  
"Occasionally," said Senator Sargent, "a politician honestly thinks he is saving the country when he is in reality engaged with all his might in self-preservation."

## BISCUIT PERFUME

By R. RAY BAKER

At seven o'clock George Henderson's alarm clock rang down the curtain on the dream and his eyes sprang open. The room looked the same as always, and yet there seemed something strange about it. Finally it dawned on him that a perfume from the past was scenting up his surroundings—a perfume of baking biscuits.

The strange thing about it was that to his dream he had been seated at a table about to begin an attack on warm biscuits and maple syrup.

The faint sound of an oven door banging shut and the rattling of pans came from the next room.

"The new light housekeepers," George commented, as he crawled from bed and began to dress. "That won't last long. Mrs. Maloney simply won't stand for any baking."

Arriving at his office, George waded into his correspondence, gave instructions to his assistants and clerks, then secluded himself from all callers and gave himself up to day dreams.

Elsie Havers was the cause and the subject of these dreams. George could not forget her, although he had seen her last ten years ago. At first, when he came to Detroit, he had given her a thought, but he was so busy making good in the real estate "game," and besides, his fellow workers were acquainted with a number of attractive city girls, one of whom quite captivated George and allowed him to spend a great deal of time with her and a great deal of money on her; until her former sweetheart, who had been West, came back and married her, and took her to Colorado.

When George recovered from the blow he discovered he had never loved Elsie. It had been simply a case of infatuation. His thoughts naturally reverted to Elsie, and he attempted to renew his neglected correspondence with her. His letters came back unopened, stamped "Unclaimed." He wrote to mutual friends and learned that Elsie and her mother had left Harbor Springs and were living in Chicago, although their address was unobtainable.

"Why not pay the old town a visit, anyhow?" he asked himself after a few moments more of cogitation.

Twelve hours later he stepped off the train at Harbor Springs. As he walked up a bluff his gait increased. Before long he met a farm driver in which he noticed a number of large tin cans.

"Hello," he called. "Wait a minute." The driver applied the brakes, and the machine stopped.

"Well, well," said the driver. "If it ain't George Henderson!"

"Bill Jackson!" George exclaimed, and he extended a hand, which met a firm, warm clasp. "Are you still dealing in maple syrup?"

"You bet. Here's thirty gallons. I'm taking 'em to the store."

"Won't twenty-nine be enough for the store?" asked George, reaching for his pocketbook. "I haven't tasted maple syrup in ten years."

"Nope. I can't sell it." Bill's face was covered with a multitude of grinning wrinkles as he added, "but I'll give you one, for old time's sake, you know. You used to be my best customer."

George thanked him and fringed on with his can of syrup. It was heavy, but it wouldn't be after he found the shady spot. Soon he came to a four corners. On each of the corners was a house. George paused in front of the smallest.

"Elsie's old home," he sighed. "Wonder who lives there now?"

He mounted the porch. The door was open and only a screen barred his progress. To his astonishment the same perfume that had assailed his nostrils two mornings ago came from the interior of the house.

He knocked, and a middle-aged lady, with white hair, bustled to the door. When George saw her he dropped the can of syrup on the porch floor.

"Mrs. Havers!" he almost shouted, wringing her hand.

"Well, well, George. It does seem good to look on your face once more. And what's in that can? Maple syrup? I might have known it. You're just in time for breakfast—and we have biscuits—always do for breakfast—even down in Detroit."

George was walking toward the kitchen. He stuck his head through the doorway and his eyes took in a young lady bending before the oven. The girl looked up and their glances met.

"What—what are you doing here?" she faltered, and her eyes found the floor.

"I just dropped in for breakfast. You see, I love maple syrup, and you—you have the biscuits; so I thought we might collaborate."

"Yes," observed Mrs. Havers, as she poured syrup on a biscuit, "we thought it would be nice to spend the summer in the old home—be resorters, like the folks over on the point; so here we are—came just yesterday morning. Yes, we liked Chicago fairly well, but Elsie thought she could get a better position in Detroit, so we moved there only last week. We found a nice place right at the start, but we had to get out—because we just had to have our biscuits, and Mrs. Maloney said the other roomers couldn't stand the smell of them; so we decided to take a vacation, and use up some of the money we had saved, and, as I said before, here we are."

Dry Land Below Sea Level.  
All the continents except South America have areas of dry land below sea level, the lowest being in Palestine, where there is a point in the Dead sea basin 1,300 feet lower than the Mediterranean.

**NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC**  
At a special meeting of the City Commission in session at the council chambers in the City of Alma, on Wednesday, April 13th, 1921, at 2 o'clock p. m., the following resolution was offered by Commissioner Archer as follows:

**Resolution**  
WHEREAS, a petition has been filed with the city commission by interested property owners and others, asking and praying that the city commission vacate, discontinue and abolish an alley located and being on, through and adjoining block one (1) of Michigan Heights subdivision to the city of Alma, according to the recorded plat thereof, or such portion thereof as said city commission shall deem advisable and without detriment or injury to the public;

AND, WHEREAS, said city commission deems and declares that the whole of said alley or such part or portion thereof as it may hereafter determine upon hearing, should be vacated, discontinued and abolished as not being injurious and detrimental to the public interests;

AND, WHEREAS, notice of hearing upon said petition should be given to the public and all other parties in interest of this resolution that full hearing may be had thereon;

NOW, THEREFORE, notice is hereby given that the city commission will be in session at the city hall to consider any objections to said proposed vacation and abolishment of said alley on Tuesday, the 17th day of May, A. D. 1921, at the hour of eight o'clock p. m. of said date, at which hearing all persons may be heard in regard thereto and full hearing had thereon.

The above resolution was supported by Commissioner Chick, which was adopted by a yeas and nays vote as follows:

Yeas: Commissioners Chick, Glass, Archer and Mayor Murphy.

Nays: None.

Commissioner Creaser absent and not voting.

Francis C. Hayward, Clerk  
Chas. R. Murphy, Mayor. 95-3

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